

Message Text

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71 62

ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 EA-11 H-03

EUR-25 NEA-14 DODE-00 SP-03 NSC-07 NSCE-00 INR-10

INRE-00 CIAE-00 /102 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ S :L W / S

APPROVED BY PM:GVEST

EA/MSTEARNS

H- GOV HOLTON

EUR - JLOWENSTEIN

S - LEAGLEBURGER

S/S -WHLUERS

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O 220100Z MAY 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106722

TOSEC 900

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MCAP, VS,US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF FY-75 DEFENSE BUDGET

1. SENATE AND HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES (SASC AND HASC) HAVE NOW EACH REPORTED OUT A DEFENSE PROCUREMENT BILL. MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE TWO BILLS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. MANPOWER - SMALL MILITARY MANPOWER CUTS WERE PROPOSED BY THE SASC AMOUNTING TO ABOUT 2. HASC PROPOSED EVEN SMALLER CUTS BUT THERE IS AN AMENDMENT BEING PROPOSED BY O'NEILL TO DIRECT A 100,000 MAN REDUCTION IN OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS BY DECEMBER 31, 1975. THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SHALL DETERMINE WHERE THE CUT WILL BE MADE.

3. MILITARY AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM - HASC CUT THE DOLS 1.6
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BILLION ADMINISTRATION REQUEST TO DOLS 1.4 BILLION; SASC CUT THE REQUEST TO DOLS 900 MILLION AND PROPOSED MAKING MASF A SEPARATE APPROPRIATION.

4. COMMENT ON CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS -
ELEMENTS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO US AT THIS POINT ARE THE MASF FUNDING CUT AND THE O'NEILL AMENDMENT.

(A) WITH REGARD TO MASF, DOD ADVISES US THAT A FLOOR AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION OF DOLS 1.4 BILLION MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM WILL BE VOTED ON

TOMORROW (MAY 22). THE PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT, WHICH IS SPONSORED BY CRITICS OF OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, IS TO CUT BACK HEBERT COMMITTEE'S MARK-UP OF THE ADMINISTRATION REQUEST TO THE LOWER SENATE LEVEL OF DOLS 900 MILLION. IF THE AMENDMENT PASSES THIS WILL MEAN THAT THE SENATE AND HOUSE WILL BOTH HAVE ADOPTED THE DOLS 900 MILLION LEVEL WHICH REPRESENTS A CUT OF DOLS 550 MILLION FROM THE ADMINISTRATION REQUEST FOR FY-75.

(B) AT THIS STAGE DOD DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER IT HAS THE VOTES TO DEFEAT THE AMENDMENT. DOD BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR YOU TO SEND A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO CHAIRMAN HEBERT EXPRESSING YOUR SUPPORT FOR HIGHER LEVEL FUNDING WITH LANGUAGE HE COULD USE IN FLOOR DEBATE.

(C) ON THE QUESTION OF THE O'NEILL AMENDMENT, WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE THAT YOU ALSO INTERCEDE ON THIS POINT AND THE LETTER CONTAINS LANGUAGE EXPRESSING YOUR CONCERN.

5. RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU AUTHORIZE US TO SEND THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO CHAIRMAN HEBERT. SCOWCROFT AND TIMMONS CONCUR.

QUOTE DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

(PARA) I WISH TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU FOR THE EFFORTS YOU ARE MAKING TO SECURE AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM IN FY-75. THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR DOLS 1.6 BILLION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WAS MADE BECAUSE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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OUR CONVICTION THAT THIS WAS AN INDISPENSABLE INVESTMENT IN THE CREATION OF AN ENDURING PEACE IN INDOCHINA. WITH THESE FUNDS IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM TO REMAIN STRONG IN THE FACE OF CONTINUED COMMUNIST MILITARY PRESSURE SO THAT A STABLE MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM CAN BE DEVELOPED. ONLY WHEN THE COMMUNISTS REALIZE THAT THEY CANNOT TAKE OVER SOUTH VIETNAM BY FORCE OF ARMS WILL THEY BE WILLING

TO MAKE COMPROMISES AND ACCOMMODATIONS ESSENTIAL FOR TRUE PEACE IN THE REGION. THIS IS THE OBJECTIVE OF OUR POLICY IN INDOCHINA AND THE REASON WHY WE CONSIDER OUR REQUEST FOR DOLS 1.6 BILLION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM FOR FY-75 A VITAL ELEMENT OF OUR PROGRAM FOR PEACE.

(PARA) I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DISMAY CONCERNING THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY MR. O'NEILL TO THE DEFENSE PROCUREMENT BILL WHICH WOULD DIRECT A 100,000-MAN REDUCTION IN OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS BY DECEMBER 31, 1975. WHILE I DO NOT DENY THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO REDUCE MANPOWER LEVELS

AROUND THE WORLD, I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS THE BEST METHOD. IN EUROPE THE ONLY WAY IS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, ARE NOW GOING ON. A UNILATERAL REDUCTION OF US TROOPS IN EUROPE WOULD BE USEFUL TO NO ONE BUT THE SOVIETS. IF TO AVOID DAMAGING OUR EUROPEAN POSTURE WE WERE TO TAKE THE FULL 100,000 IN ASIA, WE WOULD BE FORCED TO REMOVE VIRTUALLY ALL OF OUR LAND-BASED FORCE FROM KOREA, JAPAN, OKINAWA, THAILAND, AND THE PHILIPPINES, LEAVING US TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON THE THE 7TH FLEET TO SUPPORT OUR FOREIGN POLICY INTEREST IN THE PACIFIC.

(PARA) SHOULD YOU FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO REFER TO MY VIEWS DURING THE COURSE OF THE HOUSE'S CONSIDERATION OF THESE MATTERS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE ANY PORTION OF THE FOREGOING. SINCERELY, HENRY A. KISSINGER END QUOTE
6. FOR YOUR LETTER TO BE EFFECTIVE, WE SHOULD GIVE IT TO HEBERT EARLY ON MAY 22. RUSH

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Type: TE
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